WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

Draft:I Love Muhammad Controversy

***This draft may meet Wikipedia's criteria for speedy deletion* as a page created by a banned or blocked user in violation of the user's ban or block, with no substantial edits by others. See CSD G5.**

If this draft does not meet the criteria for speedy deletion, or you intend to fix it, please remove this notice, but **do not remove this notice from pages that you have created yourself**. If you created this page and you disagree with the given reason for deletion, you can click the button below and leave a message explaining why you believe it should not be deleted. You can also visit the talk page to check if you have received a response to your message.

Note that this draft may be deleted at any time if it unquestionably meets the speedy deletion criteria, or if an explanation posted to the talk page is found to be insufficient.

Note to page author: you have not edited the talk page yet. If you wish to contest this speedy deletion, clicking the button above will allow you to leave a talk page message (https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Draft_talk:I_Love_Muhammad_Controversy&action=edit) explaining why you think this page should not be deleted.

If you have already posted to the talk page but this message is still showing up, try **purging the page cache (https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Draft:I_Love_Muhammad_Controversy&action=purge)**.

This criterion doesn't apply to templates which are transcluded by other pages, unless these transclusions were all done by the banned user in question.

This page was last edited (https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Draft:I_Love_Muhammad_Controversy&diff=cur) by Johnj1995 (contribs | logs) at 16:00, 23 November 2025 (UTC) (6 hours ago (https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Draft:I_Love_Muhammad_Controversy&action=purge))

The **I Love Muhammad** controversy is a series of events and protests in India in 2025 related to the public display of the slogan "I Love Muhammad" during religious processions marking Barawafat (Eid Milad-un-Nabi). The controversy generated widespread debate on religious expression, communal harmony, and the enforcement of local laws. Barawafat, also called Eid Milad-un-Nabi, is a Muslim festival commemorating the birth of Prophet Muhammad, during which processions are traditionally held following local customs and established routes.[1][2]

In September 2025, in Rawatpur, Kanpur, a banner reading "I Love Muhammad" was displayed along a procession route. Certain local groups objected to the display, claiming it introduced a new element to the established procession and could provoke tension. Police intervened initially, and later filed FIRs against 24 individuals, focusing on activities such as removal of traditional tents, unauthorized placement of banners, and disturbances during the procession. Authorities clarified that the FIRs targeted procedural violations rather than the slogan itself.

The incident spread to multiple districts in Uttar Pradesh, including Bareilly, Unnao, Maharajganj, Kaushambi, and Lucknow, as well as to Uttarakhand and Maharashtra. While some protests were peaceful, clashes occurred in Bareilly after Friday prayers, leading to arrests including that of cleric Tauqeer Raza Khan. Internet services were temporarily suspended in certain districts to prevent the spread of misinformation and rumors.

Members of the Muslim community described the slogan as a devotional expression of love for Prophet Muhammad, protected under the Constitution of India as freedom of religion and speech. Supporters argued that the reaction from authorities and some local groups was disproportionate and restricted religious expression. Critics, including certain local groups, argued that introducing new slogans in established processions without community consensus could provoke communal tension. Authorities maintained that their actions, including arrests and temporary internet suspensions, were necessary to prevent potential unrest and maintain public order. Civil society observers and some Muslim organizations, however, criticized these measures as heavy-handed and selectively enforced against the Muslim community.

The controversy highlights the broader tension in India between protecting public order and upholding minority rights. It illustrates how religious expressions, even when non-violent, can lead to communal disputes when intersecting with established local traditions. Media coverage and social media amplified the events, often influencing public perception and escalating the situation.

See also

- Freedom of religion in India
- Communalism in India
- Religious processions in India

References

1. " 'I Love Muhammad' row: 10 key points on Bareilly violence and cleric Tauqeer Raza's detention" (https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/i-love-muhammad-row-10-key-points-on-bareilly-violence-and-cleric-tauqeer-razas-detention/articleshow/124178905.cms?from=mdr). *The Economic Times*. 2025-09-27. ISSN 0013-0389 (https://search.worldcat.org/issn/0013-0389). Retrieved 2025-10-16.
2. Srivastava, Samarth (2025-09-22). "What is 'I Love Muhammad' row and why did it spark protests across India?" (https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/what-is-i-love-muhammad-row-and-why-it-sparked-protests-across-india-barawafat-procession-kanpur-nagpur-hyderabad-owaisi-full-story-2791497-2025-09-22). *India Today*. Retrieved 2025-10-16.

Retrieved from "https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Draft:I_Love_Muhammad_Controversy&oldid=1323756241"